## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 07340 172051Z ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-09 OMB-01 /069 W

-----002950 172056Z/64

P R 171908Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1461 INFO DEA HQS WASHDC AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: RECORD COCAINE BASE SEIZURES

REF: LIMA 7192

- 1. EMBASSY WISHES TO HIGHLIGHT TO DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING RECORD NARCOTICS SEIZURES IN PERU OVER PAST WEEKEND CARRIED OUT BY PERUVIAN POLICE AND SUPPORTED BY DEA LIMA OFFICE.
- 2. SINCE JUNE, A SUSPECTED CLASS I PERUVIAN TRAFFICKER HAD BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION BY DEA AND PIP. LAST WEEKEND HE WAS ARRESTED WITH 6 KILOS OF COCAINE BASE AND 25 MILLION SOLES IN HIS POSSESSION. HE PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT A LARGE SHIPMENT OF COCAINE IN THE PUCALLPA AREA. PERUVIAN POLICE INVESTIGATED AND ARRESTED THE PUCALLPA CONTACTS, WHO LED THEM TO A CLANDESTINE AIRFIELD WHERE A RECORD 497 KILOS OF BASE WAS FOUND BURIED, AWAITING A FLIGHT FROM COLOMBIA. FURTHER INVESTIGATION LED TO TINGO MARIA, WHERE A MAJOR LAB WAS SEIZED AND MORE COCAINE BASE MAY BE FOUND AS A RESULT. TINGO MARIA SUSPECTS REPORTED THAT THE LAB PROCESSED AS MUCH AS A TON OF COCAINE BASE EACH MONTH OR TWO FOR SHIPMENT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 LIMA 07340 172051Z

COLOMBIA. TO DATE, THESE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE RESULTED IN THE ARREST OF SOME 13 PERSONS (INCLUDING 4 CLASS I PERUVIAN AND COLOMBIAN VIOLATORS) AND THE SEIZURE OF 503 KILOS OF BASE AND ABOUT 55 MILLION SOLES (APPROXIMATELY \$300,000). THE COCAINE BASE SEIZED IS VALUED AT ABOUT \$2.8 MILLION LOCALLY, OR, CONVERTED TO HCL, WOULD BE WORTH APPROXIMATELY \$28 MILLION AT CURRENT US WHOLESALE PRICES. ENTIRE INVESTIGATION, WHICH

HAD FULL SUPPORT OF PERUVIAN POLICE,	, WAS COORDINATED BY
DEA I IMA	

DECON 8/16/80. SHLAUDEMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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